

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 3-21 and 23 are pending in this application. By this amendment, claims 20 and 23 are amended and claim 22 is canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Reconsideration in view of the above amendments with the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Entry of the amended claims is proper under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 since the amendments: (1) place the application in condition for allowance (for the reasons discussed herein); (2) do not raise any new issues requiring further search and/or consideration (since the amendments amplify issues previously discussed throughout prosecution without incorporating additional subject matter); and/or (3) place the application in better form for appeal (if necessary). Entry is thus requested.

Applicants sincerely acknowledge the Office Actions indication that claims 1-19 and 22-23 define patentable subject matter. However, for at least the reasons set forth below applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims are in condition for allowance.

A. The Office Action rejects claims 20 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,822,871 to Lee et al and U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0064688 to Mizuta et al. (hereafter Mizuta). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

With respect to claim 20, Applicants respectfully submit that allowable subject matter from claim 22 is incorporated into claim 20. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 20 defines patentable subject matter for at least that reason. Claim 21 depends from claim 20, and therefore also defines patentable subject matter for at least that reason as well as its additionally

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recited features. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 20-21 under §103 is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney, Carl R. Wesolowski, at the telephone number listed below.

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To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
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